

Remarks

Claims 1–29 and 49–54 are pending in the application. Claims 30–48 and 50–54 are canceled. After entry of this amendment claims 1–29 and 49 are pending in the application. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuing applications directed to the subject matter of canceled claims. Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claim Amendments

Applicants appreciate Examiner Miller's acknowledgement of the allowability of the subject matter of objected-to claims 7 and 53. As Examiner Miller suggested, claim 53 has been rewritten in independent form, incorporating all of the limitations of base claim 1. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite the features of claim 53 and claim 53 has been canceled. The remaining claims 2–29 and 49 all depend from claim 1 and have not been amended. Accordingly, no new matter is added by this amendment. These claims do not raise any new issues for examination after final rejection because they are the same as previously pending claims. Thus, claims 1–29 and 49 are in condition for allowance.

The Office action dated October 6, 2006, rejected claims 1–6, 8–29, 49–52 and 54 over one or more prior references. Applicants disagree with the asserted bases for these rejections. Nonetheless, to expedite the issuance of this application, all rejected claims have either canceled or have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of objected-to claim 53. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuing applications directed to the subject matter of canceled claims.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that claims 1–29 and 49 are in condition for immediate allowance. Such action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if any issues remain to be resolved prior to passing this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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